

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068184

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, APRIL 12, FROM BEIRUT REPEATED
TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4230

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS LE

SUBJ: AFTERMATH OF ISRAELI RAID ON BEIRUT

SITREP 7

FOL IS FIRST REPORT ON BEIRUT SITUATION MORNING APR 12:

1. CITY EXCEPTIONALLY QUIET SO FAR. SCHOOLS, BUNESSES
AND PRACTICALLY ALL STORES HAVE CLOSED AS SIGN OF
MORNING FOR VICTIMS OF ISRAELI RAID ON BEIRUT. SHUTTERS ARE
DOWN AND TRAFFIC IS LIGHT.

2. EMBASSY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS BUT WE WILL CLOSE
DOORS AT 12 :30 TO PERMIT MOST PERSONNEL RETURN
HOME BEFORE AFTERNOON FUNERAL AND DEMONSTRATION WHICH
SCHEDULED FOR 3 PM. (BRITISH AND FREANCH ALSO STAYING
OPEN THIS MORNING ONLY.)

3. BEIRUT PRESS AND PALESTINIAN PROPAGANDA CONTINUE
GIVE EXTENSIVE PLAY TO ALLEGED U. S. EMBASSY COMPLICITY
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IN ISRAELI RAID.

4. FRANGIE STILL CONSULTING POLITICAL LEADERS ABOUT FORMATION OF NEW GOVT.

5. GOL OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CONSELING FATAH LEADERS, INCLUDING ARAFAT, NOT TO LET TODAY' S CEREMONIES GET OUT OF HAND AND PROVIKE ADVERSE REACTION AMONG LEBANESE WHOSE SYMPATHY FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE HAS TO SOME EXTENT BEEN REKINDLED AS RESULT ISRAELI RAID. ARAFAT ALLEGEDLY AGREED, BUT WE CANNOT BE SURE WHAT HE WILL DO NOR WHAT HOTTER HEADS AMONG FEDAYEEN, SUCH AS SALAH KHALAF, MAY TRY TO DO.

6. LEBANESE ARMY HAS POSTED GUARDS ON ROOFTOPS SURROUNDING EMBASSY. MINIMAL SECURITY FORCES STATIONED OUTSIDE EMBASSY FOR MOMENT, BUT SUBJECT TO RAPID AUGMENTATION AS REQUIRED. FORCE PRESENT YESTERDAY FOR RELATIVELY SMALL DEMONSTRATION WAS ADEQUATE TO DIVERT CROWD. HOWEVER, WITH SCHOOLS AND BUSINESS SHUT DOWN WE EXPECT GREATLY INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN THIS AFTERNOON' S FUNERAL FOR TOP FEDAYEEN LEADERS. PRESS ESTIMATES UP TO 20 0,000 MAY CONGREGATE, AND ALTHOUGH THIS PROBABLY EXAGGERATED, TODAY WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN VERY SUBSTANTIAL TURNOUT. EVEN THOSE LEBANESE NOT PARTICULARLY SYMPATHETIC TO PALESTINIANS ARE BITTER, PUZZLED AND HUMILIATED BY COMPLETE FAILURE OF GOVT TO RESPOND IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY TO ISRAELI INCURSION INTO DOWNTOWN BEIRUT, AND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE LETTEING OFF STEAM TO BE DONE. BUFFUM UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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